

## **Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund**

### **Board Meeting**

**July 8, 2019**

Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund Board  
Department of Agriculture –Conference Room 1  
Dover, Delaware

In Attendance:

Judy Davis-Wilson	Secretary M. Scuse
Andrew Kerber	Secretary R. Geisenberger
Garnett O'Marrow	Wayne Givens
Linda MacDonald	Matt Sparacino
John Hensley	

**Others Present:** Rebecca Kidner

Senator Bruce Ennis, Garrett Bell, Andrew Markano and Gerald Brady were unable to attend.

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Secretary Scuse called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

#### **APPROVAL of MINUTES:**

Minutes from the DSBF meeting on March 27, 2019 were sent via e-mail prior to this meeting. A motion was entered by Secretary Scuse to accept the minutes from the March 27, 2019 meeting. The motion was carried by Garnett O'Marrow and seconded by Matt Sparacino. None opposed.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Senate Bill 145 (Purse & Bonus Enhancements):**

Secretary Geisenberger spoke regarding SB145. This bill was just introduced in early June 2019 and was difficult to pass as written. The state budget was already crafted with a Fiscal Note of 750,000 (250,000 for Thoroughbred and 500,000 for DSBF) when SB145 was brought up to the Senate Finance Committee. There was no additional budget for SB145. SB145 is still active and has a lot of support; it just needs to be put in the Governor's recommended budget. Sal DiMario will meet with the Governor and pursue SB145. Secretary Scuse noted that the budget starts in September and is submitted in October so the Governor's meeting needs to be before September. If necessary, it can be placed in the DDA budget.

John Hensley asked what mechanism is in place as a Board to get the money and how to spend it? Judy Davis Wilson also asked why this was not discussed in a Board meeting before anyone pursued money for the DSBF. Secretary Scuse stated that neither he nor Judy Davis Wilson can ask for the money but the horseman can, which is why Sal DiMario is involved. Sal DiMario and the DSOA put together a proposal for SB145. Sal DiMario stated that if you do not do something to enhance the DSBF program you will lose it. The subject of the increase in budget was lightly discussed at the March DSBF meeting. Garnett O'Marrow is concerned that the DSBF Board has not seen the SB145 proposal and does not have a spending proposal in place for SB145. Secretary Scuse asked Sal DiMario to come up with a spending proposal for the DSBF Board to review at the September meeting. Rebecca Kidner noted that the DSBF will have the final say on how the money is spent. Secretary Geisenberger added that it is important to have a well prepared economic proposal.

Special DSBF Board Meeting will be called in September; Judy Davis Wilson will arrange the date and notify everyone.

**2020 Race Dates (Tracks – John Hensley & Matt Sparacino):**

John Hensley stated that the race dates are fluid and up for discussion. Judy Davis Wilson said 3 horsemen have indicated they want the dates changed.

A letter from Jim King Jr was presented;

“I think it works best to continue racing the same dates as we have been racing in recent years and not prolong them. Racing the finals in April and July works perfectly for the three year olds in training for the DSBF horses. Then, after July we can give them til the end of the season in order to race in November.”

Wayne Givens agrees with Jim King Jr.

Linda MacDonald said she raced a 2yo in December that then had to come back as a 3YO in the spring at Dover; she thinks dates could be changed.

Garnett O'Marrow noted that racing 3YO in the fall will conflict with the Dover stake races and overnight races would be missed. John Hensley state that the rigid rules for races will no longer be in place, there is room for 15 races if needed.

Secretary Scuse stated he would like to get this resolved and make the right decision but does not feel comfortable without the horseman being represented on both sides. John Hensley stated we should make sure we hear from stables that have both Pacers and Trotters as well. This discussion will be tabled until the September meeting. Sal DiMario will post in his newsletter and contact people to attend.

**Review of Reports:**

- Financial Report as of July 8, 2019
- 2005-2019 Mares Bred to Foals Registered Stallions
- History of Foal Crop Size (includes USTA and SC )

**New Business:**

None heard

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Governor's Day at the Delaware State Fair is Thursday 7-25-19.

**CLOSE of MEETING:**

At 1:46pm Secretary Scuse made a motion to close the meeting. Motion was carried by John Hensley and seconded by Matt Sparacino. None opposed and meeting was adjourned.

Next DSBF Special Board Meeting is scheduled for September, date TBD.